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Ground Zero News

Circulation over 2000 this month and growing!

OCTOBER 1994 | Colorado Springs, Colorado | Volume 2, No. 10

IS CFV KEEPING OHIO DONORS IN THE CLOSET?

YOU MUST REGISTER TO VOTE AND YOU MUST VOTE!

When and where to register P.

In Colorado and Ohio, Colorado for Family Values is fighting orders to reveal who its contributors are. Many are beginning to question why CFV is so reluctant to reveal who backs their efforts.

Colorado's Secretary of State ruled that when CFV solicited funds to oppose *People for A Stronger Colorado's* now defunct *Equal Protection Amendment* Petition Drive, this was "political action" and, as such, mandated that CFV submit lists of its donors. CFV's argument that the petition process was not part of the political process was discounted. CFV has now appealed that decision to State District Court.

Similarly, in Cincinnati, hearings have been held investigating CFV's involvement in the recent campaign there to remove gays and lesbians from civil rights inclusion. Anti-gay forces there spent slightly less than $500,000 in their campaign, almost $400,000 of which was sent to it by CFV.

Ohio and Cincinnati officials have determined that Colorado for Family Values should have registered as a Political Action Committee in Ohio and should be required to file lists of its donors, a ruling CFV is fighting

Many in Colorado and in Ohio are beginning to ask why the leadership of CFV is so reluctant to do what every other Political Action Committee in America must do. Are they trying to hide something?

Cincinnati's lesbian and gay leadership believe that much of the $400,000 came from just a couple of sources, sources who would rather remain anonymous. Among those most suspect is the CEO and Board Chairman of Chiquita Banana Corporation, Carl Linder. Sources close to the issue stated that they would not be surprised if Linder donated essentially all of the $400,000.

Linder surfaced in Cincinnati anti-gay politics in the past when he led the fight to censor the photography of Robert Mapplethorpe and to intimidate the National Endowment for the Arts. Abortion rights activists also believe that he is a key element in anti-abortion efforts. Linder usually prefers to be in the background, letting his money do his talking for him. This is reminiscent of the Coors family that has for years financed the Radical Right movement, including Paul Weyrich, the Christian Coalition and the Christian National Council. While practicing enlightened gay employment practices, they turn the profits of their endeavors over to support of those who promote intolerance, bigotry and discrimination.

Some gay activists are beginning to consider adding another boycott to the list that now includes Coors and the FLUSH RUSH Campaign--it may be time, they believe, to initiate a "**DONT'CHA EATA CHIQUITA** boycott."

OCTOBER 11 IS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

GZ MEMBERS RELATE PERSONAL COMING OUT STORIES

See PP.

COMMUNITY PLANS WEEK LONG ACTIVITIES

See Pp.

COMING OUT MADE EASY!!!!

Now you can come out on Coming-Out Day, Tuesday, October 11, regardless of how far in or out of the closet you are!!! Just choose from the list provided below any activity that suits your comfort level, or do them all!!!

Julie Cooper

el the family spirit and know that hundreds of other gays and lesbians around the city are doing one or all of these tivities along with you!

THIRTEEN WAYS TO COME OUT ON OCTOBER 11:

Wear pink socks or underwear to work today. (You know--the pair you threw in the wash with your red activist T-shirt last winter!)

Wear a small pink triangle inside or (for you braver souls) outside your collar! (Available at Abaton Books, they'll know which one you need!)

Every time you look in the mirror say as loud as you're comfortable "I'm Gay," "I'm a Lesbian," "I'm Queer," or "I'm a Dyke." (Go ahead and add "I like myself and that's O.K." for a little SNL humor!)

Fly or display a rainbow anything: windsock, flag, color a rainbow and put one on your dashboard, the possibilities are endless, AND, you'll get to piss off Kevin in the process!!

When you park your car at work, turn the wheels on an angle (unstraight!) and then count all the other cars in the parking lot doing the same thing. Betcha didn't know there were so many queers where you work, huh?!?

Call up your favorite radio station, tell the D.J. that it's National Coming-Out Day and you're coming out on that show!

At exactly one o'clock, cough or sneeze into something pink, you may need to fake it, and know there are many others coming out in the same way!

Work the phrase "Imadyke" or Imaqueer" discreetly into casual conversations at least 5 times today. (i.e. - "I'll have a Big Mac, Imadyke, fries and a coke, please.")

Shape or cut your food into a triangular shape before eating it.

) If you're already out, we applaud you! But I'll bet there's someone in Colorado Springs you're not out to yet! Come out to someone you haven't told already. (If you can't think of anyone, call Kevin up at CFV and come out to him! 577-4916)

) If you're a couple and out, then go down to city hall and apply for a marriage license.

) Kiss your partner in public today, and choose a symbolic spot such as in front of CFV, at work, on an island on Academy Blvd., in the showroom at Perkins Chrysler-Plymouth, etc. (Way to Go!)

) Last but not least, (this is the one Ground Zero hopes everyone within eye-shot of this newsletter will do!) all through out the day, hum, whistle or sing softly "We Are Family." We think you'll be surprised at how many people you'll run into humming the same thing.

Ground Zero

Saved for masqueradeparty ad

RESERVED FOR CARTOON

BEGINNING IN THIS ISSUE

How does a child deal with the knowledge that his father is gay and his mother is a lesbian? *Ground Zero* has been given permission by Noel Black, a recent graduate of Lake Forrest College, to excerpt his award winning thesis entitled *Understanding Difference Through Paradox*. In this work Noel pursues both a personal and academic exploration of coming to terms with his parents' sexuality and his relationship with them. It is a fascinating and moving account of dealing with two gay parents in a homophobic society. This series begins in this ~~Newsletter~~ issue and will run for several months.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MOVING????

Well, your GZN won't follow unless you let us know where you are. We mail Non-Profit Bulk Rate and that mail goes in the trash if not deliverable to the address on the mailing label!!! Editor

Ground Zero News is an authorized publication for members of **Ground Zero.** Contents of *Ground Zero News* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the Board of Directors of **Ground Zero.** The editorial content is edited and prepared by the Newsletter staff/committee. *Ground Zero News* staff are:

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Saved for masqueradeparty ad

CHRISTY WOOD FAX (719) 598-5886
4945 MARK DABLING BLVD. #29 COLO. SPGS. CO. 80918

To : The Editor
Ground Zero

The gay people say; It is ok to beat up and harrass gay , lesbian and bisexual people. It is fitting and proper to force gays and lesbians to keep their lives a secret and conform to society. Gays , lesbians, and bisexuals are not individual people and are ashamed of their lifestyles. They wont stand up for themselves. There must be something wrong with them ! That is the message the GLBT's have sent to the public by remaining in the closet.

My name is Christy Wood . I'm a pre operative male to female transsexual living full time as a woman, and a bisexual person who is mainly attracted to men. Now that I have said that and my female friends have scooted to the opposite end of the couch in deep mental thaught, I can point out how the closet rules the lives of all people.

The closet is created in our minds from the fear of intolerance, the fear of violence, non acceptance or ridicule from others. The fear of being outcast or laughed at by your piers or society because your oppinions, likes and dislikes may differ from theirs. We have been taught by conformists all through our life that our closeted likes, behaviors, and habits are wrong, and are to be hidden. The closet strips us of our individuality, our self being, we become the sheep of society instead of the sheep dog. We build our closets to protect our fragile self, and in the process we become our own oppressors.

Many have sacrificed their inner beings in the struggle to appear mainstream. People are not cloans, God did not intend for everyone to be the same. Give people a chance to like the real you and you will find true love and friendship. I am Christy Wood, a liberal " bi " American citizen with decent morals , a good friend, and a transsexual. I always was and will be a part of the gay community no matter how my stereotype may effect the gay rights movement. I am what I am and if you dont like it thats tuff !

I would much rather have a freak, nerd, or weirdo for a friend than a phoney.

Bi Bi Love Christy

ALL CHRISTIANS ARE NOT INTOLERANT

The state of Washington is facing two initiatives that are designed to remove gays and lesbians from any mention in civil rights acts and to forbid their inclusion in any such acts in the future. These initiatives would legalize and legitimize existing discrimination against gay and lesbian persons.

Earlier this year, the Board of Directors of the Washington Association of Churches voted unanimously to oppose these initiatives. Later, the Board issued the following Pastoral Letter to the churches and Christian communities in Washington State. It is reprinted here from the *Northwest Beacon*, the newsletter of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

WE BELIEVE that God has a special covenant of justice and righteousness with humanity. The book of Genesis tells the story of the Hebrew people who faith in God brought them out of oppressive discrimination and guided their destiny for so long--and with such patience. As Christians, we believe that God was faithful to them and is faithful to us because God created the world and all that is in it--and for no other reason than that of love.

WE BELIEVE that we are created in the image and likeness of God. We are therefore sacred and have inherent dignity. As God's children we have special responsibility for caring for ourselves and others in a community of jus and right relationships. These just and right relationships define what is necessary within community to preserve the sacred worth of every person. This is precisely why churches opposed initiatives 608 and 610.

WE BELIEVE that the New Testament calls us to live according to the truth, life and teaching of Jesus. Jesus showed us reverence for life, the dignity of every individual, and justice within the community. As disciples of Jesus we believe that it is sinful to deny basic human rights.

WE BELIEVE that anti-homosexual discrimination attacks human worth by singling out a group of people simply for who they are. Such discrimination is morally intolerable. It encourages violence against gay and lesbian persons and by harming them harms the full community.

WE BELIEVE that initiatives 608 and 610 divide, fragment and polarize. The stories of discrimination of gay and lesbian persons are bleak realities of this. For so long we have been bound by a culture of silence about this discrimination. We have often ignored injustices. We are all called to practice compassion and commitment to fairness. We must seek legal mechanisms which protect and not erode basic human rights.

WE BELIEVE that too often we have tolerated unfair practices of existing federal, state and local discrimination against gay and lesbian persons. Initiatives 608 and 610 would worsen this discrimination. As Christians, our biblical obligation to work for a right and just community requires that we work to defeat these initiatives.

WE ENCOURAGE Christians not to sign these initiatives and to challenge those who support them.

WE ENCOURAGE Christians to offer pastoral support for those who, even now, suffer from the hatred these initiatives foster.

WE ENCOURAGE Christians to engage in on-going education and theological reflection about their respective church teaching relative to human rights and justice.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Washington Association of Churches: African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Roman Catholic Church, United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ.

WHO AND WHAT IS THE NORTHWEST COALITION AGAINST MALICIOUS HARASSMENT?

In mid-September 1994, Ground Zero and other civil rights and social justice organizations, and persons interested in issues related to "malicious harassment" met with representatives of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment to ask them to extend their base of operations to Colorado.

The NWCAMH was formed in July of 1986 and now includes over 250 organizations from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. It is a 501(c)(3) organization that encompasses a broad mosaic of members, including: civic groups, religious groups, civil rights groups, churches, synagogues, student body associations, local community task-forces, law enforcement agencies, human rights commissions, businesses, labor organizations, etc. The NWCAMH's goal is to address the problem and theat of malicious harassment and violence based on race, religion, gender and sexual orientation.

It seems likely that the NWCAMH will vote to extend its territory to include Colorado. It is also likely that they will hold a full Board meeting in the Springs in 1995 and there is the distinct possibility they will bring their convention of 800-1000 to the Springs in 1996. Ground Zero and the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition anticipates full affiliation.

GROUND ZERO

A lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered supportive movement dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to unifying and promoting full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered citizens in the community at large through the means of education, coalition, and visibility.

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GROUND ZERO

Ground Zero

salutes

THE UNITED COURT

THE OLDEST GAY ORGANIZATION IN COLORADO SPRINGS

We also salute the many gay and lesbian and gay supportive organizations in Southern Colorado, including:

B-GALA CC B-GALA UCCS CGRA
DIGNITY G&L AA
G&L ADOLESCENT SUPPORT GROUP
LA GUIA LESBIGAY FAMILIES
THE MONARCH HOUSE PPMCC
NEW PHAZES ONE IN TEN P-FLAG
PIKES PEAK DIVERSITY CHOIR PPGLCC
PUEBLO AFTER 2 S-CAP
SIMPLE JUSTICE

A special thanks to Empress and Emperor 18, Chris Lee and Ricky Martinez